

KNEW BERTRAND AS 'VOICE'

Andrews' Lawyer Answers Queries

By JACK DEMPSEY

Dean Andrew Jr., the rotund assistant district attorney from Jefferson Parish who has been drawn into the current probe of the death of President John F. Kennedy, is letting his attorney do most of his talking.

After a three-hour huddle with District Attorney Jim Garrison's investigators last night, Andrews and his attorney Sam Monk Zelden emerged to talk to newsmen, but Zelden supplied the lion's share of the answers.

Members of the DA's staff weren't talking at all.

As a matter of fact, at only one juncture did the short, stocky attorney from Jefferson speak up—and then to correct Zelden about an answer he had given.

One of the correspondents wanted to know if Andrews knew Oswald.

ZELDEN replied that he knew him only in a lawyer-client relation when "Andrews defended Oswald in a minor court case—a court we in New Orleans call the municipal court."

"No, that's not quite right," interposed Andrews who was standing next to Zelden immediately outside the main entrance to the DA's office in the Criminal District Court Building.

Andrews corrected Zelden's remark by saying that he had given legal advice to Oswald on immigration matters pertaining to him and to his Russian-born wife. On another occasion he said he offered legal counsel to Oswald on a problem concerning his discharge status with the Marine Corps.

AT AN EARLY point in the impromptu press conference one of the newsmen asked the

\$64 question, the answer urgently sought apparently by the DA's office earlier.

"Tell us," said the newsmen, "does Mr. Andrews know if Clay Bertrand and Clay Shaw are one and the same man?"

"He doesn't know," retorted Zelden, "that's what we are trying to find out!"

Andrews said he knew Bertrand only as a "voice over the telephone." He explained by saying he handled 10 or 12 young men clients on various minor charges from time to time in the past several years who called a man known as Clay Bertrand on the phone after the matter of "fees" had been discussed.

Bertrand he said would assure Andrews that if the young man didn't pay the full amount of the fee that he, Bertrand, would cover the balance.

"YOU MEAN TO say," said one newsmen, "that Mr. Andrews would accept the word of a man he had never met in person and whom he didn't know in such an important matter as fees?"

Zelden replied Andrews had no reason to disbelieve the "voice" known as Bertrand as all fees were eventually paid. "You don't fight a good thing," he added.

Andrews testified before the Warren Commission that he saw Bertrand on two occasions. He gave investigators two conflicting descriptions of the man. The commission reported that it never was able to find Bertrand.

Andrews showed up in the corridors of the spacious court building second floor about 20 minutes in advance of his 5 p. m. appearance as required on a court-ordered subpoena.

He was wearing dark sun

glasses, which is usual for the short, husky lawyer.

He spotted senior Judge Bernard J. Bagert in the hallway and after a brief conference entered Judge Bagert's courtroom.

Andrews left Judge Bagert's court and walked down the corridor to Judge Oliver P. Schulingkamp's section of court. Newsmen pressed in on Andrews, squeezing him to the point where he could hardly walk.

QUESTIONS began raining down on him.

"Who is Clay Bertrand . . . Do you know Clay Shaw . . . Did you know Oswald . . . How about you and Dave Ferrie?"

To all of these questions, the wise-cracking Andrews snapped: Read the Warren report for your answers!"

One of the questions, however, stopped him flat in his tracks. One of the quizzers shouted out: "What do you think of D. A. Jim Garrison's investigation?"

Pausing momentarily and

looking in the direction from whence the query came, Andrews answered acidly:

"That's his problem—not mine!"

When Andrews emerged from Judge Schulingkamp's office he headed—or rather attempted to head back to the courtroom of Judge Bagert in the opposite direction of the D. A.'s office.

It was now past 5 p. m. and the press corps had their cameras set up nearer the D. A.'s office expecting Andrews to head there next. When he headed back to Judge Bagert's court instead, the pursuit began again.

HE REENTERED Judge Bagert's courtroom, and after a few minutes had elapsed, a

group of assistant district attorneys from Garrison's office emerged from the D. A.'s office and headed toward Judge Bagert's court.

It had all the appearances of a "flying squad" and newsmen sensed that perhaps they were heading for a "show-down" with Andrews. They ignored all questions thrust at them by newsmen and locked the courtroom door once inside.

The group was composed of assistant D. A.'s Jim Alcock, Mike Karmazin, Andrew

Sciambra, Richard Burnes and Numa Bertel.

They left, once again in a body, about 15 minutes later without offering an explanation of the activity which had transpired inside the locked courtroom doors.

A short while later, Andrews emerged and followed the D. A.'s flying squad down the hall to the D. A.'s office.

And once again pandemonium reigned as eager newsmen pressed around him yelling questions. At times it appeared they would lift him from the floor they crowded in so closely and intently.

To most questions he had a blunt, quick answer: "Read the Warren commission report!"

He stopped short, however, when asked suddenly if he anticipated getting arrested.

He responded:

"I couldn't care less."